

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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COMUSSAG

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS CB

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT DAILY HINTS THAT LON NOL SHOULD LEAVE

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH-LANGUAGE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DAILY LE REPUBLICAN HAS QUOTED THE SUN KING'S POLITICAL OPPONENT AND LATER ADVISOR, CARDINAL DE RETZ, TO HINT THAT LON NOL SHOULD CHOOSE THE LESSER EVIL AND ABSENT HIMSELF FROM CAMBODIA AS PART OF THE CATALYST TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "STATESMAN'S DILEMMA", THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE GOVERNMENT DAILY LE REPUBLICAN HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A STATESMAN CAN NEVER PICK IDEAL SOLUTIONS, THE LESS SO WHEN HIS ROOM FOR MANEUVER IS LIMITED WHICH IS OFTEN THE CASE. THE EDITORIAL WRITER (PROBABLY POLITICAL DIRECTOR SATH HASSAVY, A DEPUTY AND ASSOCIATE OF HANG THUN HAK) PROFESSES HIS BELIEF THAT THE GKR WILL HAVE THE INTELLIGENCE AND WISDOM TO CHOOSE THE LEAST EVIL FOR ITS PEOPLE AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

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3. GIVEN THAT THE OTHER SIDE HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE

GKR'S CALL FOR TALKS, THE DAILY SEES THE PROBLEM AS ONE OF FINDING THE RIGHT CATALYST TO LEAD TO TALKS. THREE FACTORS MAKE UP THE CATALYST IN LE REPUBLICAN'S VIEW: "A) MILITARY BLANCE BETWEEN THE TWO KHMER SIDES; B) THE GOOD OFFICES OF UNCOMMITTED FRIENDLY FOREIGN POWERS; AND C) THE VOLUNTARY REMOVAL IN THE HIGHER INTERESTS OF ALL THE KHMER PEOPLE OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS ON BOTH SIDES FOR WHICH CONTINUED SUPPORT, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, CAN BE CONSIDERED AN OBSTACLE TO THE DIFFICULT PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION."

4. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES "THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS TOO WISE AND TOO FILLED WITH THE SENTIMENT OF ITS POLITICAL DUTY NOT TO ACCEPT THE HISTORIC CONCLUSION OF THE FAMOUS CARDINAL DE RETZ: 'LE PROPRE DE L'HOMME D'ETAT EST DE CHOISIR ENTRE DE GRANDS INCONVIENTS (A STATEMENT'S LOT IS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MAJOR EVILS).'"

5. COMMENT: LE REPUBLICAN HAS MADE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ON-GOING DEBATE IN KHMER CIRCLES AS TO WHETHER THE MARSHAL SHOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH PHRASED INDIRECTLY THE MESSAGE THAT LON NOL SHOULD LEAVE IN THE INTEREST OF GETTING TALKS STARTED WILL BE CLEAR TO KHMER IN THE ELITE. THIS VIEW IS THAT OF A GOVERNMENT DAILY CLOSELY TIED TO THE RULING SOCIO-REPULICAN PARTY AND ESPECIALLY TO THE DOMINANT HANG THUN HAK-PAN SOTHI FACTION IN THE PARTY.
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